

Bulletin
of
The Maritime Library Association

Vol. X, No. 3

March, 1946.

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Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Editorial Notes

We regret to chronicle the illness of Mrs. Marjorie J. Thompson, librarian of the University of New Brunswick, and newly-elected president of the Maritime Library Association. We wish Mrs. Thompson a speedy recovery and hope to have a message from her for the M.L.A. in the next Bulletin.

Questionnaires have been sent out by the Canadian Library Council to get an all-over picture of library services in Canada. Librarians should fill these in and return them as soon as possible so that the report may be published on schedule in April.

An important event in the history of Canadian libraries will take place in Hamilton, Ontario on June 14 and 15 when a conference for the organization of a Canadian Library Association will be held.

The American Library Association will hold its 65th annual conference June 17-23 in Buffalo, New York. No hotel will be chosen as conference headquarters: meetings will be held in the Municipal Auditorium.

This month marks the 100th anniversaries of two great figures in the field of children's literature. Kate Greenaway, noted for her distinctive illustrations, was born March 17, 1846; and Randolph Caldecott, another great illustrator, was born March 22, 1846.

Early New Brunswick Diaries and Letters
Margaret Evans, New Brunswick Museum, Saint John

New Brunswick has produced great poets but as yet she has given to the world neither a Pepys nor a Chesterfield. Nonetheless, among her early settlers she may claim diarists and letter-writers of no mean order, men and women who after the long day's work was over, by light of candle or fire, took time to record either in a journal or in letters to distant friends, their thoughts and experiences, the doings of the neighbourhood, and the affairs of the province at large.

They could not know that more than a century and a half later their worn and faded manuscripts would be numbered among the cherished possessions of libraries and Archives, and that ardent researchers would pore over their pages patiently deciphering each faint and straggling line.

The libraries of the New Brunswick Museum (there are three libraries, for reference and research only, in the Department of Canadian History - the Webster Canadians Library, the Ganong Library, and the Archives) contain many of these old journals and letters. In so brief an article it will be possible to discuss only a few of them. The choice has fallen upon those belonging to that eventful period which embraces the arrival and settlement of the United Empire Loyalists and the establishment of the new province of New Brunswick. It is to be understood that within this period the material is limited to original manuscripts in possession of the Museum libraries.

Many of the manuscripts show a delightful originality in spelling and script. Others are models of eighteenth-century English. As for subject-matter, while social, political, and military affairs by no means are overlooked, the weather, the work on the farm, and the family's state of health are given due consideration. Expressions of deep religious feeling are not lacking.

The diary of Col. Henry Nase, Loyalist, covers a period of twenty-one years, 1776-1797. Col. Nase served with the King's American Regiment during the Revolutionary War and came to New Brunswick in 1783, settling eventually on his grant at the mouth of the Nerepis River. The diary of about 175 pages is written in a hand-made book of good paper, now mottled and stained with age. It teems with interesting entries concerning the war and the early days of settlement in New Brunswick. On Nov. 21, 1784, the diarist notes, "Arrives His Excellency Thomas Carleton, Esq., Governor of the Province of New Brunswick." Later, he makes the first mention of a public road in the Parish, and still later, on March 15, 1788, adds, "the Post passed this way for the first time for Fredericton". On March 13 of the same year Col. Nase had recorded his marriage to Jane Quinton, daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth Quinton, pre-Loyalists.

The so-called Quinton "Diary" must be mentioned here although it is neither an original manuscript nor a diary in the proper sense of the word. It bears on the cover the following note, "Quinton Diary. Not known by whom typed nor the whereabouts of the original." It really is a narrative with diarial passages, and was written by John Quinton, a grandson of Hugh and Elizabeth (Christy) Quinton, and a nephew by marriage of Col. Nase. The 'diary' covers the years between 1762 and 1835 and has 126 type-written pages. It contains historical, biographical, and genealogical material of value. It was from the lips of his grandmother that John Quinton heard the stirring tales of pre-Loyalist and Loyalist times which he has recorded in his narrative.

The McKenzies came to New Brunswick in 1783 and settled not far from Col. Nase. The families intermarried.

The McKenzie letters (1772-1813) although few in number are of interest. They are written chiefly to Mrs. Malcolm McKenzie, "Kings County, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, North America", by her parents in Scotland and a brother, evidently a man of some education, in Paris. A sister living in the American Colonies, whose husband had joined the Loyalist forces, writes from New York, Sept. 11, 1783 - "It give me pleasure to hear of you and yours being in health and safely arrived at Sant Johns... I have nothing particular to write you at present only that we have joined a company for port-ro-sua [Port Roseway, N.S.]... when I am at fort ro-sua I will writ you and let you know how to derect me..." The promised letter duly arrives giving a description of the settlement.

The mention of Port Roseway naturally brings to mind that staunch and gallant Loyalist, Benjamin Marston, first Sheriff of Northumberland County, N.B., surveyor, poet, painter, and diarist. In the capacity of surveyor he was appointed to superintend the laying-out of Port Roseway, later Shelburne. His famous diary (1776-1787) fills three fair-sized books. It is so well-known by the extracts printed in various historical publications that for sake of brevity we must refrain from quoting here.

Benjamin Marston left all his possessions to his cousin, Judge Edward Winslow of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. The diary came to the Museum together with that much-more-famous manuscript material, the Winslow Papers.

Archdeacon W.O. Raymond, the editor, in his preface to the "Winslow Papers", published in 1901, states, "No private collection of papers in Canada, with perhaps the single exception of the Chipman Papers, can compare with the Winslow collection as regards the length of the period it covers, the number of writers represented, and the variety of subjects with which it deals." Although the book contains about 650 letters and documents written by about 170 different persons it was, as the editor says, "manifestly impossible... to copy the whole of the immense collection". The Papers, in manuscript, fill thirteen folio volumes. A slender little brown book is included in the Winslow collection. It is the diary of Judge Edward Winslow written between the years 1799-1810. One important entry dated June 26, 1807, reads in part, "Mr. Chipman deliver'd me a packet containing His Majesty's Mandamus appointing me a judge of the Supreme Court". This was a long-waited-for honour.

The Chipman Papers (not yet calendared), the Hazen Papers, and the Botsford Papers together include hundreds of original letters written within the Loyalist period. Among the Benedict Arnold Papers are letters written by the General and Mrs. Arnold to Jonathan Bliss, attorney-general of New Brunswick, (later Chief Justice), during the years 1791-1802, and also letters from Bliss to Arnold written within

the same period. The latter are copies of the originals made by Jonathan Bliss himself.

Rev. Frederick Dibblee was a native of Stamford, Conn. He was not a Harvard man as were Benjamin Marston and Judge Winslow, but a graduate of King's College (now Columbia), N.Y. A sturdy Loyalist, he came to St. John in 1783 and after a few years at Kingston settled at Woodstock. His diary was written with a grey goose quill pen in two large hand-made books, which contain 300 or 400 pages, between the years 1803 and 1825. Nearly every entry begins with a statement about the weather. The whole contains an invaluable store of local history.

Much has been said of the hardships, privations, and sufferings of the Loyalists. That there was a brighter side to the life of the early settlers is shown by a few entries in the Dibblee diary made during the Christmas season of 1810.

Dec. 26. Clear and Cold Morning ... Captn Smith Cellebrated the Season.- Dined there with Captn Bull & Lady, Squire Cook & Lady, Mrs. Griffith, Squire Bedell & Lady, Mr. M. Smith & Lady, Squire Upham & Lady, William Upham, Lady, and Sister, a very Pleasant Party.

Decr. 28. Captn Bull Celebrated the Season with a Tea-Party...

Decr. 31.... William Bull Cellebrated the Season with a large Party of Young Folks.

So ends the brief story of a few old manuscripts - the diaries and letters of a bygone age. Their authors were the first historians of New Brunswick. Our debt to them is no small one. By means of their carefully-kept records in imagination we may re-live, and the modern historian re-write, the most colourful and significant period in the development of the province.

Library News of the Maritimes

Moncton

The Moncton Friends of the Library Association has given the Library \$200. to open a fund for a new library building. This building has been under consideration for some time, and now that the fund has been started, those interested expect the campaign will be more active.

Dalhousie

An increase in membership and a wider circulation of books were reported at the first meeting in 1946 of the Dalhousie library board. Hope was expressed that the library might soon be made a regional one and it was announced plans were proceeding for a new building, to be sponsored by the Canadian Legion as a memorial to the men and women who have served in the last two wars.

Reports from committees were encouraging and a freer use of the library was noted, the number of books being borrowed being very high. An average of 60 a day is being taken out, which is considered an exceptionally high figure as the library is only open three days a week and then for only three and a half hours. In a 10-month period last year more than 7,000 books were loaned. The library service is purely voluntary and the upkeep is maintained by various organizations in the town.

During the year a large number of new books were bought and these were augmented by donations from interested citizens.

A feature of the year's activities was the keen interest being taken in the library by the children of the town. The board was greatly encouraged with this report as special encouragement has been given the matter of juvenile reading. (Saint John Telegraph Journal, January 26)

Libraries for Nova Scotia

At the present time there are interesting new library developments in Nova Scotia. Since the first of the year seven municipal councils have voted in favour of the regional library plan. These municipalities are Annapolis, East Hants, West Hants, Yarmouth, Argyle, Barrington and Shelburne.

Plans are going forward in Halifax to start a campaign for funds for a public library which will be a War Memorial. It is planned that this library will also serve as the headquarters for a regional library for Halifax County.

Mr. T.A.M. Kirk, reports from Yarmouth. Shortly after the fire which in March, 1944, destroyed part of the Yarmouth Library, the Trustees of the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum appointed Major J.E. Campbell, one of their members, as chairman on a special campaign: (1) To renew the history of the Library; (2) To make a survey of present and probable future needs; (3) To consider the Regional Library Plan and the possibility of putting it into operation in this locality. Major Campbell after some months study presented to the Trustees a complete and thorough report which brought to the attention of the Trustees and the public in general much information and many proposals with regard to a new library for Yarmouth, which had to be gradually considered by the Trustees before any action could be taken.

The financing of the project is of particular interest to Yarmouth and vicinity and this matter has been given a great deal of study since the writing of the report along with a study of the Regional Library plan as it is drawn up for the Province of Nova Scotia.

A committee from the Yarmouth Library trustees interviewed the Regional Libraries Commission in Halifax and a plan has been evolved

whereby the three western Counties - Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth should become one region under the Library Plan, and the main depot should be located in Yarmouth with branch depots in the other Towns of these three Counties and in many of the larger villages. In this plan the main library building in Yarmouth would be owned and maintained by the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum and whatever part of the building is needed for Regional Libraries would be rented by the former to the latter. In this way the identity and autonomy of the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum would be maintained.

With reference to Yarmouth County in particular the proposal is that a modern fireproof Library building be erected in the Town of Yarmouth in Memorial Park and that it be a War Memorial for the Town and County for World War II. This proposal has met with general approval and many organizations have already gone on record favoring such a project.

The Yarmouth Town and Municipal Councils have agreed to donate a site in Memorial Park.

The Municipal Council of Barrington (Shelburne County is divided into 2 Municipalities - Shelburne and Barrington) met in council session a short time ago and was addressed by Miss Marion Gilroy, Secretary of the Regional Library Commission and they accepted the Regional Library plan in full and voted their share of the required amount to be paid when required.

In Shelburne Municipality a great deal of preliminary work has been done and it is expected that the plan will meet with approval in this area.

As yet no specific preliminary work has been done in Digby County (which is composed of Digby and Clare Municipality). However as soon as more details are finalized in Yarmouth and Shelburne Counties, the campaign will be carried into Digby.

The special campaign committee of the Yarmouth Public Library and Museum are now finalizing their plans for the collection of the necessary sum of money to erect the new Library building. It is hoped that this campaign will be launched within the very near future and with the splendid response that has been received from the various organizations in Yarmouth County, it is felt by the committee in charge, that the actual appeal for funds will also meet with general acceptance.

TVA Libraries

(From TVA: Democracy on the March by David E. Lilienthal. Harper & Brothers, Publishers)

In calling upon a state or local agency to share responsibility instead of setting up a TVA organization to do a specific job alone,

and in negotiating the contracts upon which such joint efforts rest, we have deliberately tried to "start something" that local forces might later carry on, on their own. We have tried to place each new activity into the stream of the region's life, in the hands of local agencies to be continued when the initial federal support is withdrawn. Grass-roots methods, decentralization as here applied, are therefore not simply the making of "grants-in-aid" to state or local bodies, and the "matching of federal funds" technique.

Let me take the growth of libraries as an example. The Authority wanted to provide library service for its thousands of employees building the Watts Bar Dam. But we did not want to set up an independent library that would be closed and disappear once the dam was built. So TVA contracted with the Tennessee Division of Libraries and the City Library Board of Knoxville, to provide this service at an expense to us that did not exceed what direct TVA library service would have cost. These two agencies knew the people of the localities, knew whom to turn to for local leadership. This contract then became the nucleus for the development of local interest in library service, and regional library service grew naturally out of this beginning. As TVA construction work moved up the river to other dams in counties near by, more and more local agencies and leaders joined, all contributing funds raised by local town councils or county governments, until the library project had expanded into thirteen counties of east Tennessee, in only one of which there had ever before been adequate public facilities for the reading of books. Mobile library units were going through the area, reaching TVA construction workers at their homes, and also under the terms of the contract, non-employees living in the remote regions.

By the autumn of 1942 the Watts Bar Dam was nearly completed. TVA's contributions of funds would therefore soon be terminated. Now came the real test of the methods we had inaugurated. Had the roots sunk in deeply enough to sustain and continue what was now under way? A meeting was called to see what could be done to keep the regional library system operating. A dozen women and half dozen men attended, representing the library boards of eleven out of the thirteen of the counties, and one by one they rose to tell of their experience. Mrs. Willis Shadow of Meigs County began the discussion:

We have 6,000 people in Meigs County, and no railroad, no telephones, and no newspapers. The bookmobile and the grapevine are the only means of communication. If we lose the library bookmobile, how will we know what is going on in the world? What chance have we to improve standards of health or living except through reading? Talk about country people not reading! In Meigs County we read 4,000 books a month. There is not a family in the county that the library doesn't touch.

Many of these board members had been reluctant a year or two before to ask their county officers for a few hundred dollars' contribution to the regional library. Yet before the meeting adjourned they had all agreed to ask the State Legislature for an annual appropriation of \$25,000. They organized a legislative committee and mobilized state-wide support. And on February 9, 1943, the Governor of Tennessee signed a measure setting up an east Tennessee regional library office, with an initial state appropriation of \$20,000.

Three years had intervened between the beginning of the library program in the Watts Bar area and the state appropriation for the larger unit. In January, 1940, 263,000 people were practically destitute of books. Three years later these twelve counties, previously with none, now had 52,000 library books; the books were being distributed from two hundred locations covering the most remote limits of the area. Twenty-two thousand persons were registered as borrowers. In January, 1943, they read 250,000 books.

In these thirteen counties, the people, through their own efforts and with only indirect stimulation from TVA, have made a permanent advance in their level of living, and one of a nature which helps bring about other advances. The State Commissioner of Education, in a newspaper interview, expressed the opinion that the appropriation is the first step toward a state-wide system of regional libraries, which may cost the state \$250,000 "and will be worth every dollar of it". Already another contract between TVA and state agencies, is planning to become a part of the state system two years hence.

This east Tennessee development is not unique. Up to the present time every library program for TVA employees that has been entrusted to local agencies for administration has grown into a permanent service when the Authority has withdrawn. Regional library systems covering three counties of northern Alabama and three counties of western North Carolina grew out of construction periods at the Guntersville and Hiwassee dams. It appears likely that out of these co-operative efforts between the TVA and institutions at the grass roots will come a complete coverage of the Tennessee Valley states with a useful and practical type of library organization,

Appointments

Mrs. Margaret Cornell, formerly Librarian at the Dalhousie Medical Library, has been appointed Librarian at the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research, Toronto University.

Miss Charlotte Allan who has been on the Library staff in the Department of External Affairs at Ottawa for the past year and a half succeeds Mrs. Cornell as Medical Librarian at Dalhousie.
